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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 06 2001

In re Application of:
ANTONUCCI et al
Serial No. 09/702,322
Filed: October 31, 2000
For: POLYMERIC... ABOVE 100°C

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700
Group: 3728

600 Third Avenue
New York N.Y. 10016
March 30, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert

Prior Application

This application is a division of U.S. patent application No. 09/206,849 filed December 7, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,156,184.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 to 3 and add the following claims:

12. A method for conditioning a polymeric proton exchange membrane for operation at temperatures above 100°C, the method comprising the steps of:

a: heating the membrane to a temperature at least about 5°C above its said operating temperature;

3/A
4/12/01
by [Signature]
Date: March 30, 2001
D. Chalene